

GM576

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects, Gubernatorial Nominee, RON IWAMOTO, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Report Title: Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects

Description:

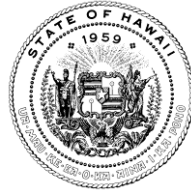
Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPN

Introducer(s):

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
4/1/2015	S	Received.
4/1/2015	S	Referred to CPN.
4/2/2015	S	The committee(s) on CPN has scheduled a public hearing on 04-17-15 8:30AM in conference room 229.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. Box 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2015

Friday, April 17, 2015
8:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 576.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is James Kobashigawa and I am the Executive Officer for the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects ("Board"), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 576, regarding the appointment of Mr. Ron Iwamoto to the Board. The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Iwamoto's appointment to the Board.

Mr. Iwamoto has been serving on the Board as an interim member since October 2014, and is being appointed as a Professional Engineer member. He has been licensed as a Professional Engineer since May 1, 1996, and his license is current, active and in good standing. Since Mr. Iwamoto's interim appointment, there have been six meetings of which he has attended five.

As a structural engineer, Mr. Iwamoto brings specialized expertise and provides valuable insights to the Board as the Board oftentimes addresses issues related to structural engineering scope issues. Mr. Iwamoto's experience as a professional engineer in the branch of structural engineering and his desire to contribute to the community will continue to be an asset to the Board.

The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Ron Iwamoto to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects, and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Clayton C. Y. Pang
1100 Ward Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Governor's Message 576, Letter of Recommendation for Confirmation of Ron E. Iwamoto
Board of Professional Engineers, Architect, Surveyors and Landscape Architects

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of Ron E. Iwamoto's appointment and confirmation as a member of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.


I have known Mr. Iwamoto for more than 20 years as a Structural Engineer in Honolulu. We have worked on many projects together during this time. Mr. Iwamoto is an outstanding structural engineer who is diligent and detailed in his work to produce a safe and trustworthy design. These character traits will help the Board of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects in its capacity to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community by ensuring that only qualified structural engineers are licensed in the State of Hawaii.

Mr. Iwamoto is also a community minded individual who volunteers his time in many engineering organizations and activities for youths who are contemplating the engineering profession. Outside of engineering, Mr. Iwamoto volunteers by coaching swimming with Pearl City Aquatics for the past 8 years.

Mr. Iwamoto's honesty, commitment and diligence will be an asset to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

I strongly urge this committee to confirm Mr. Ron E. Iwamoto.

Very truly yours,



Clayton C. Y. Pang, P.E.

CP:my



ERSKINE ARCHITECTS, INC.

April 6, 2015

The Office of Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
415 South Beretania Street, #230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Confirmation of Ron E. Iwamoto, GM576
Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape
Architects**

Aloha Senator Rosalyn H. Baker,

I am writing to recommend Mr. Ron Iwamoto to the State Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects. I have known and worked with Mr. Iwamoto for the past 17 years. During this time frame, I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Iwamoto on numerous projects of varying complexities all over the State of Hawaii. With his years of experience as a structural engineer, combined with his high level of expertise, professionalism and moral character, Mr. Iwamoto would be a wonderful addition to the State Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects.

It is my pleasure to recommend Mr. Iwamoto to The Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects. I have great personal and professional respect for Mr. Iwamoto, and sincerely believe that he will bring valuable professional experience and insight to this position. If you have any questions about this recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 833-8891.

Sincerely,
Erskine Architects, Inc.

Fred Erskine, AIA
President



THE LIMTIACO CONSULTING GROUP
CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

April 3, 2015

The Office of Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
415 South Beretania Street, #230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Confirmation of Ron E. Iwamoto, GM576
Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and
Landscape Architects**

Honorable Senator Baker and Committee Members,

It is my honor to provide strong support for the nomination of Ron Iwamoto to the State Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects. I've had the privilege of knowing Ron personally and professionally for 20 years.

Ron is routinely recognized for his advancements to the engineering industry, selfless commitment to community service, thriving structural engineering business, and above all, dedication to his flourishing family. He is an incredibly accomplished individual.

Being a professional civil engineer, I understand the importance of maintaining high ethics and standards within our profession. Engineers bear the significant responsibility of designing infrastructure and communities to serve future generations. Our profession demands high standards and ethics; it all starts with strong board members.

I have complete confidence Ron's deep talent, unwavering commitment, and genuine values will make meaningful contributions to the board and our industry.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Best always,
THE LIMTIACO CONSULTING GROUP, INC.


John H. Katahira, P.E.
President

KATAYAMA & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Consulting Mechanical Engineers

725 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite C212 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-6026 • Telephone (808) 521-5086 Fax (808) 521-1713

April 13, 2015

**The Office of Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
415 South Beretania Street, #230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

Via email: CPNTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Confirmation of Ron E. Iwamoto, GM 576
Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects

Dear Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker:

I am in SUPPORT of the nomination and confirmation of Mr. Ron Iwamoto for the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

Mr. Ron Iwamoto is highly respected Structural Engineer in the design professional community. He is a knowledgeable design professional, who runs his consulting engineering firm with integrity and high ethical standards. He has demonstrated strong professional expertise in the discipline of Structural Engineering.

Personally, I have known Mr. Iwamoto for approximately the last 12 years. We have worked together closely on numerous design projects in the past, as well as on current projects. I believe Mr. Iwamoto will bring valuable professional experience and insight to this position. He will be a great addition to the State Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. K. Katayama', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Katayama & Associates, Inc.
Kevin K. Katayama



Mechanical Enterprises, Inc.
Consulting Mechanical Engineers
501 Sumner Street, Suite 503
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Phone: (808) 591-9038
Fax: (808) 596-7356
e-mail: rtanaka@meihawaii.com

April 10, 2015

The Office of Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
415 South Beretania Street, #230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Confirmation of Ron E. Iwamoto, GM576
Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape
Architects

Dear Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair and Members of Senate Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of my friend and colleague, Mr. Ron E. Iwamoto. I have known Mr. Iwamoto for over 35 years as we were childhood friends, attended the same high school together and are both proud graduates of the University of Hawaii, College of Engineering.

During this time, I have had the honor and privilege of watching Ron develop from a young local boy growing up in the heart of Pearl City to the man he is today. In addition to being a dedicated husband/father, he is also a successful business owner and highly respected structural engineer in the design professional community.

Ron has always exemplified the highest standards of honesty and integrity, both personally and professionally. As design professionals, we've worked together on numerous design projects over the past 20 years and his knowledge of structural engineering, as well as the overall design and construction process has always been exemplary.

I truly believe that the insight and professional experiences offered by Mr. Iwamoto, as well as his honesty and integrity, make him an excellent addition to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

If you have any questions, or if you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ross Tanaka', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ross Tanaka, P.E., LEED AP, CPMP
Mechanical Enterprises, Inc.
Principal / Vice President

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

I would like to provide my volunteer service to the public in the capacity of serving on the board in the Structural Engineering position. I enjoy volunteering in capacities which I feel will greatly benefit the general public, as well as others. I typically volunteer 20-30% of my time in various volunteer professional organizations including SEAOPH, ASCE, ACEC, and serve as a volunteer assistant swim coach at an age group swimming club.

- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

One of the responsibilities is to review applications for licensure by examination or by endorsement. Other roles include the review, voting and decision making in regards to licensing issues pertaining to professional licensure and rulemaking defining our scope of professional practice as it relates to the health, safety and welfare of the general public. Also, another role is to provide decision making to issue final orders in disciplinary cases.

- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

I feel I can protect the consumer by providing a thorough effort, to the best of my abilities and to the highest ethical standards, to review licensing issues brought to the board. These are the same standards whereby I run my engineering business which I promote throughout my company to all of my engineers. Running my business and making decisions to the highest ethical standards, will help me in my roles on the board to protect the consumer and general public.

- (4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

I have been a licensed professional structural engineer for almost 20 years now. I run my own business with a total of 6 employees and my business is founded on the high ethical standards in the profession of structural engineering. I have been running my business for almost 13 years now. I am currently active in several volunteer roles in engineering organizations, and have served as the past president of two of the major engineering organizations locally. In my business and volunteer roles, I have had to make very difficult decisions in order to do what I felt was best for the entity.

- (5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope to give back a significant amount of public service in the structural engineer position on the Board. I would like promote a higher standard for qualifications for licensure in engineering in order to better protect the public over the next decades, where the public will see engineers on equal playing fields as other professionals in terms of required education for licensure. I also hope to gain a better understanding of the roles of the EASLA board in government, and take an active role in its decision making and rule making authority.

- (6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

Professional, ethical and hardworking. I feel that I can offer these qualities to the Board in the structural engineer position, which I feel will enhance the roles of the Board in its authority, rulemaking and decision making process. I feel that with these qualities I can offer, I can be an engaged and truly active member of this Board.

- (7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

I have been President of the Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii, as well as served as the President of the Hawaii Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. In those leadership roles, the experiences that I have gained regarding making decisions, collaboration, and communication with others will be greatly beneficial to the Board. I am also currently serving the second of two 3-year terms on the National Leader Training Committee for the American Society of Civil Engineers where we provide leadership training for leaders of local units across the country.

- (8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

Since one of my responsibilities will be to review the licensure exam or endorsement applications of those in my industry, one of the possible conflicts of interests that may arise may be if I may need to review those of someone who I may know. Another possible conflict of interest would be if decision making is required regarding the disciplinary action of someone who I may know. In these cases I would overcome them by recusing myself from the particular situation in order for the Board to provide equity and fairness in the process.